

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09528 01 OF 02 271304Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SES-03 SAA-01
SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /098 W
-----092366 271321Z /44

O 271237Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4457
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 9528

JERUSALEM PASS AMB ATHERTON

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR IS
SUBJ: ISRAELI RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN EXPULSION OF IDF TEAM

BEGIN SUMMARY. EGYPTIAN EXPULSION OF IDF TEAM RECEIVED
WITH SOME SURPRISE IN ISRAEL. GOI OFFICIALS AND ISRAELI
PRESS ARE BOTH DIVIDED ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EGYPTIAN
MOVE. SPECULATION ABOUNDS AS TO SADAT'S MOTIVES FOR THIS
LATEST DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY

1. ISRAEL TELEVISION REPORTED LAST NIGHT (JULY 26) THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 09528 01 OF 02 271304Z

THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR ISRAEL TO RECALL ITS MILITARY
DELEGATION IN ALEXANDRIA WAS RECEIVED BY ISRAEL "WITH
SURPRISE, ALTHOUGH NOT WITH TOTAL SURPRISE." THE TV
COMMENTATOR POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THE DEFENSE
ESTABLISHMENT HAD ASSESSED THAT SADAT MIGHT EXPEL THE IDF
TEAM IN RESPONSE TO THE NEGATIVE ISRAELI REPLY TO THE TWO
US QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, THE COMMENTATOR REPORTED THAT THE

PRESENT FEELING HERE IS THAT THE EXPULSION IS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOI'S NEGATIVE REPLY TO SADAT'S REQUEST FOR AN ISRAELI GESTURE OF GOODWILL ON EL ARISH. HE SPECULATED THAT THE EXPULSION IS A SERIOUS MOVE BY THE EGYPTIANS WHICH COULD PLACE IN QUESTION THE HOLDING OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. THE EXPULSION ORDER IS THE TOP STORY IN TODAY'S (JULY 27) PRESS. DAVAR (BLOCH) REPORTS THAT CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED IN JERUSALEM OVER THE MOVE, WITH GOI CIRCLES ACTUALLY FEARING THAT THE EGYPTIAN WAR THREATS WOULD LEAD TO "SEVERE DEVELOPMENTS" ALONG THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN BORDER AS OCTOBER DRAWS NEARER. HAARETZ (SCHIFF) AGREES, WRITING THAT THE EGYPTIAN DEMAND IS VIEWED "WITH GREAT SEVERITY" IN JERUSALEM. SCHIFF CLAIMS THE RECALL OF THE IDF DELEGATION IS SEEN AS A MORE EXTREME STEP THAN SADAT'S JANUARY RECALL OF THE EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COMMITTEE DELEGATION IN JERUSALEM, SINCE IT IS THROUGH THE IDF TEAM THAT DIRECT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN CONTACT WAS MAINTAINED. THE JERUSALEM POST (GOODMAN) REPORTS THAT THE EGYPTIAN DECISION WAS SEEN "AS THE FIRST STEP IN A WAR OF NERVES OVER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." GOODMAN WRITES THAT ISRAELI DEFENSE CIRCLES EXPRESSED SIAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN OVER THE MOVE. HE QUOTES A "SENIOR SOURCE" AS HAVING SAID, "THE DELEGATION PLAYED A SYMBOLIC ROLE, PERSONIFYING THE NEW ERA IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, AND SERVED AS AN OPEN PIPELINE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 09528 01 OF 02 271304Z

TO THE EGYPTIANS FOR SENSITIVE MESSAGES. NOW, ALL TRANSMISSIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE US. "THE DECISION...COULD BE MORE THAN A MERE NEGOTIATING TACTIC."

3. HOWEVER, OTHER GOI SOURCES ARE REPORTED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO DOWNPLAY THE ENTIRE INCIDENT. GOODMAN QUOTES ANOTHER SOURCE AS SAYING, "THE EXPULSION IS A TACTIC... WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE EGYPTIANS WANT PEACE, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE WAYS THEY INTEND TO GET IT ON THEIR TERMS. THIS IS A LEGITIMATE TACTIC, AND WE ACCEPT IT AS SUCH." AL HAMISHMAR (SHEHORI) REPORTS THAT THE EGYPTIAN ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEING INTERPRETED BY JERUSALEM AS POLITICAL PRESSURE BEFORE THE NEXT STAGE OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09528 02 OF 02 271313Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SES-03 SAA-01
SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /098 W
-----092589 271321Z /44

O 271237Z JUL 78
FM AMENBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4458
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 9528

4. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ALSO SEEMED TO MINIMIZE THE DECISION'S SIGNIFICANCE. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW LAST NIGHT, BEGI, SAID, "IN MY OPINION, THIS IS NOT EVEN A POLITICAL NOR A MILITARY EVENT. THE DELEGATION DID NOT PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN POLICY. ONCE IN A WHILE IT GOT A MESSAGE OR SENT A MESSAGE... THIS (THE EXPULSION) I TREAT LIGHTLY. IT DOES NOT CHANGE THE SITUATION." YEDIOT (GUINEY) FEELS BEGIN MAY BE UNDERESTIMATING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, BOTH FOR THE SYMBOLIC AND THE PRACTICAL (DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK) ROLES PLAYED BY THE DELEGATION. GUINEY HEDGESJN HOWEVER, NOTING THAT THE DEPARTURE OF THE DELEGATION WILL NOT NECESSARILY BRING ABOUT A DETERIORATION OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TIES, SINCE THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 09528 02 OF 02 271313Z

TEAM'S PRESENCE ADDED NOTHING TO THESE RELATIONS.

5. NOTING THAT THE RECALL OF THE ISRAELI MILITARY MISSION ADDS TO OTHER DISTRESSING SYMPTOMS, DAVAR'S BLOCH SAYS THAT OTHER GOI MINISTERS ARE DIVIDED ON THE DEGREE OF SEVERITY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. BLOCH CLAIMS THAT

WEIZMAN DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH DAYAN AND THAT BOTH DECIDED TO ASK BEGIN TO SEND ANOTHER MESSAGE TO SADAT, WORDED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY FROM THE MESSAGE REFUSED BY SADAT ON EL ARISH. BEGIN, HOWEVER, IS REPORTED TO HAVE DECLINED THEIR REQUEST. BLOCH ADDS THAT A LATER MEETING BETWEEN WEIZMAN, DAYAN, YADIN, AND SHARON SIMILARLY FAILED TO CHANGE THE PM'S POSITION.

6. SHEHORI AND SCHIFF REPORT ON SPECULATION IN JERUSALEM CONCERNING THE REASONS BEHIND SADAT'S LATEST MOVE. SHEHORI SAYS "AUTHORIZED ELEMENTS" TOLD HER SADAT TOOK OFFENSE AT THE CONTENTS OF BEGIN'S MESSAGE ON EL ARISH, AND THAT SADAT WAS INSULTED THAT BEGIN READ OUT THE MESSAGE TO THE KNESSET BEFORE IT EVEN REACHED HIM. SCHIFF AGREES WITH THIS ASSESSMENT. SHEHORI ALSO SPECULATES THAT BEGIN'S STATEMENT IN THE KNESSET--ABOUT NOT GIVING EGYPT GRATUITOUSLY "EVEN A SINGLE GRAIN OF DESERT SAND" MAY HAVE ANGERED SADAT. A MA'ARIV EDITORIAL AGREES WITH SCHIFF AND SHEHORI, AND ADDS THAT SADAT MAY ALSO BE SEEKING TO SIGNAL TO THE US THAT HIS PATIENCE IS AT AN END AND THAT THERE CAN BE NO CONTINUATION OF DIPLOMACY ALONG THE LINES OF "LEEDS CASTLE-TYPE SYMPOSIA". LEWIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV09528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780308-0283
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780712/aaaaakaf.tel
Line Count: 193
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5283566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1862102
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN EXPULSION OF IDF TEAM BEGIN SUMMARY. EGYPTIAN EXPULSION OF IDF TEAM RECEIVED WITH SOME SURPRISE IN ISRAEL. GOI OFFICIAL S AND IS
TAGS: PEPR, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5283566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014